

DEPARTMENT OF AGING

1600 K STREET
 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-4020
 Internet HomePage: www.aging.ca.gov
 TDD Only 1-800-735-2929
 FAX Only (916) 323-0178
 (916) 322-1054



PROGRAM MEMO

TO: AREA AGENCIES ON AGING DIRECTORS	NO.: PM 03- 09 (P)
SUBJECT: California Department of Aging (CDA) Poverty and Low Income Requirements, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Annual Poverty Guidelines Update, and Updated Income Eligibility Criteria for Title V, Brown Bag, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparent Programs	DATE ISSUED: May 8, 2003
	EXPIRES: Upon 2004 new rate issuance
REFERENCES:	SUPERSEDES: PM 02-10(P)
PROGRAMS AFFECTED: <input type="checkbox"/> All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-C1/C2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-D <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title III-E <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Title V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CBSP <input type="checkbox"/> MSSP <input type="checkbox"/> Title VII <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
REASON FOR PROGRAM MEMO: <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Law or Regulation <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Inquiry <input type="checkbox"/> Other Specify	
INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Your Assigned AAA-Based Team	

The purpose of this Program Memo is to provide Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and their service providers a single reference document for information on the annual federal poverty guidelines, the State Supplementary Program (SSP) payment rate, CDA poverty and low-income requirements, and the current income eligibility criteria for Title V, Brown Bag, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparent programs. It is the responsibility of AAAs to implement changes in accordance with the various effective dates. The DHHS published its annual federal poverty guidelines in the February 7, 2003, *Federal Register*. The annual SSP payment rate was effective upon issuance by the appropriate agencies.

POVERTY GUIDELINES

Various programs use the federal poverty guidelines for eligibility criteria, targeting, and/or reporting purposes. The Title III programs use 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for targeting and reporting purposes.

Eligibility and reporting requirements for Title V and the Community-Based Service Programs vary and are described below and in the attached **CDA Poverty and Low-Income Requirements chart**.



CDA POVERTY AND LOW-INCOME REQUIREMENTS

The ***Older Americans Act Title III Programs*** shall use the federal poverty guidelines for targeting and reporting purposes. To target greatest economic need, an AAA shall consider the needs of older individuals at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines in planning services. Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 7310(c)(3) states "... if possible, locate services where a significant number of the targeted group resides and develop methods to serve the targeted group." Title III programs target greatest economic need, but do not have income eligibility requirements for participation.

The ***Community Services Employment Program (Title V)*** shall use 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for eligibility criteria and reporting purposes. For additional information, refer to the March 3, 2003, U.S. Department of Labor Older Worker Bulletin 03-02.

Linkages shall use 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for reporting purposes. Linkages reports the number of clients at or below the federal poverty guidelines as the number of poverty clients. Beginning July 1, 2003, Linkages will change their poverty procedures to be consistent with other CDA programs. The poverty status will no longer be based on the income of only the client. If the client does not live alone, the family income (couple) will be used to determine poverty status.

Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers (ADCRC) shall use 100 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for reporting purposes. ADCRCs report the number of clients at or below the federal poverty guidelines as the number of poverty clients.

The ***Senior Companion and Foster Grandparent Programs*** shall use 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for eligibility criteria and reporting, except in designated high cost areas as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, where 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines shall be used for eligibility. For the listing of the 13 designated high cost county areas, see the footnote in the attached **CDA Poverty and Low-Income Requirements chart**.

The ***Brown Bag Program*** shall use 100 percent of the California SSP for a blind individual for the minimum eligibility criteria and reporting. According to the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 9543(b): "For purposes of this section, low-income older individual means a person 60 years of age or older, with an income no higher than that of the annual basic benefit level provided under the SSP for a blind recipient" Section 9543(c) continues that "If ... a surplus of foodstuffs exists, the program may also provide these services to persons 60 years of age or older, with an income that does not exceed 125 percent of the maximum income level for a low income older individual." Therefore, the local Brown Bag programs have the discretion to serve those with an income up to 125 percent of the SSP rate for the blind contingent upon the availability of surplus food and within the limits of available funds. The new income eligibility rate for the Brown Bag Program is effective immediately upon issuance.

The ***Respite Program and Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP)*** do not collect poverty information.

For Internet access to the federal poverty guidelines, and for future reference, you may wish to visit the following Internet sites:

- Federal poverty guidelines at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>
- California SSP at: <http://www.ssa.gov>
- Title V eligibility levels at: <http://wdsc.doleta.gov/seniors/>
- Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion poverty guidelines at: <http://www.nationalservice.org/>

To determine which figures are appropriate for a specific program, refer to the following **CDA Poverty and Low-Income Requirements** chart. It provides updated figures to be used for eligibility, targeting, and reporting by Title III, Title V, Brown Bag, Linkages, ADCRC, Senior Companion, and Foster Grandparent programs. This Program Memo does not address poverty guidelines for MSSP, ADHC, and Title VII programs. Please provide these poverty requirements to all service providers and check to make sure your programs are in compliance with the applicable guidelines.

Original Signed by Lynda Terry

Lynda Terry
Director

Attachments

CDA POVERTY AND LOW INCOME REQUIREMENTS, 2003 – 2004

PROGRAM	DEFINITION	PURPOSE	REFERENCE	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUAL	MONTHLY AMOUNT FOR INDIVIDUAL	ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR COUPLE	MONTHLY AMOUNT FOR COUPLE
Title III	100% federal poverty guidelines	Targeting & Reporting	Title 22, CCR, Section 7310	\$8,980	\$748	\$12,120	\$1,010
Title V	125% federal poverty guidelines	Eligibility & Reporting	Older Americans Act Section 507(1)	\$11,225	\$935	\$15,150	\$1,260
Linkages	100% federal poverty guidelines	Reporting purposes	AAA Based Team Specialist	\$8,980	\$748	\$12,120	\$1,010
ADCRC	100% federal poverty guidelines	Reporting purposes	AAA Based Team Specialist	\$8,980	\$748	\$12,120	\$1,010
Senior Companion	125% federal poverty guidelines ¹	Eligibility & Reporting	45 CFR Part 1207	\$11,225	\$935	\$15,150	\$1,260
Foster Grandparent	125% federal poverty guidelines ¹	Eligibility & Reporting	45 CFR Part 1208	\$11,225	\$935	\$15,150	\$1,260
Brown Bag	100% California SSP for blind ²	Eligibility & Reporting	Welfare & Institutions Code Section 9543	\$9,828	\$819	\$18,672	\$1,556
Respite							
HICAP							

¹ High Cost Areas of Alameda County, Contra Costa County, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles City, Marin County, Orange County, Santa Barbara County, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, San Diego County, San Francisco County, San Mateo County, Sonoma County, and Ventura County shall use 135% of the DHHS poverty guidelines. Rounded to the next highest multiple of \$5.00 according to the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Program	Definition	Purpose	Annual Amount for Individual	Monthly Amount For Individual	Annual Amount For Couple	Monthly Amount For Couple
Senior Companion & Foster Grandparent	135% federal poverty guidelines	Eligibility & Reporting	\$12,125	\$1,010	\$16,360	\$1,365

²Local Brown Bag programs have the option to serve those with an income up to 125% of the SSP rate for the blind contingent upon the availability of surplus food and within the limits of available funds. Use the figures listed below to determine the maximum eligibility income if able to serve those with an income up to 125%.

Program	Definition	Purpose	Annual Amount For Individual	Monthly Amount For Individual	Annual Amount For Couple	Monthly Amount For Couple
Brown Bag	125% California SSP for blind	Discretionary eligibility	\$12,288	\$1,024	\$23,340	\$1,945